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Spring Arbor Junior College
Graduate Follow-up Study

Eric H. Johnson, Registrar

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE
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SPRING ARBOR JUNIOR COLLEGE

Graduate Follow Up Study

ERIC H. JOHNSON

An extensive graduate follow up study was conducted during late spring of 1959 to determine the level of academic achievement of Spring Arbor Junior College graduates at institutions to which they later transferred. The study included those former students who graduated during the 10 year period between June, 1948 and June, 1957. During this time, 453 students graduated and were granted associate titles as follows:

Associate in Arts	349
Associate in General Studies	41
Associate in Religion	37
Associate in Science	26
Total	453

Of these graduates, 283 students continued their college programs at six institutions: Greenville College (a Free Methodist church-related senior college at Greenville, Illinois), Roberts Wesleyan College (also a FM college, at North Chili, New York), Eastern Michigan, Western Michigan, Central Michigan and the University of Michigan. This number represents approximately 70% of the total number continuing on in any college. Approximately 38% of these continuing on in any college transfer to Greenville.

As a measure of the comparative level of academic achievement, the averages of the earned grade point averages of these 283 student were compiled for the time they were enrolled at Spring Arbor Junior College and at the college to which they later

transferred.

A summary of the tabulation is presented:

Number of Students	Average GPA at SAJC	Transferring Institution	Average GPA at SAJC	Change in Averge GPA
122"	2.62	Greenville	2.75	+ .13
48	2.73	Roberts Wesleyan	2.69	-..04
43	2.71	Eastern Michigan	2.64	- .07
21	2.83	Western Michigan	2.90	+ .07
21	2.91	Central Michigan	2.72	- .19
8	3.12	University of Mich.	2.54	- .58

The study indicates that Spring Arbor Junior College graduates are able to compete successfully with native students upon transfer to other institutions. In the cases where the average GPA showed a decline at other institutions, Spring Arbor transferees still were at or above the average for that particular institution.

Spring Arbor Junior College would seem to be primarily a farm team of Greenville College. If this is the case, Spring Arbor successfully fulfills its role, for the Greenville transfers during the period have actually increased their grade point averages.

If the evidence of the Spring Arbor grade point average is meaningful, Spring Arbor is sending on its better students and/or

its marking scale is posed toward the "B" rather than the "C." Experience suggests that both factors play a part in the conclusion. However, even in the two cases in which the grade point average of the transfers dropped, the students were still achieving above average for that institution.

The results of this study are not unlike other research findings relating to the transfer of junior college students to upper division work.